THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) A Bangladesh delegation led by the Director General of Bangladesh Rifles visited India in January, 1994 to discuss border related matters.

(b) Revival of the arrangements between Border Security Force and Bangladesh Rifles which were put in operation in September, 1991 for push back of illegal Bangladesh immigrants, inflitration of illegal immigrants, aid to insurgents, trans-border crimes, demarcation of the boundary and tension in Muhuri Char area were some of the main issues discussed in the meeting. Both sides agreed to expedite demarcation of boundary and to increase mutual cooperation in eradicating the menace of smuggling. The Bangladesh authorities were urged to put an end to negative activities along the border.

(c) The Bangladesh delegation did not show interest in visiting the areas in Delhi having Bangladeshi population.

(d) & (e) Yes, Sir. It was agreed that further discussion would take place in the meeting of the Joint Working Group comprising officials of the Home Ministries of the two countries and others concerned.

Strike in Pakistan in Support of Kashmiris' Demand of Right to Self Determination

253. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the strike observed in Pakistan to protest against the Indian action in Kashmir and to express solidarity with the Kashmiris demanding their right to self determination; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A nationwide strike was observed in Pakistan on 5 February, 1994 to express solidarity with the people of Jammu & Kashmir. This strike was supported by the Government of Pakistan. This is the fifth consecutive year that such a strike has been observed in Pakistan.

It is regrettable that the Government of Pakistan is continuing to associate itself with activities of this kind which only inflame public opinion, incite violence and which do not help, in any way whatsoever, in facilitating a climate of relations in which meaningful discussions are possible to settle differences bilaterally and through peaceful negotiations.

Conditions put by Pakistan for Holding Indo-Pak Talks

254. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Pakistan has put any condition for holding the next round of Indo-Pak talks; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At the Foreign Secretary level talks held between India and Pakistan at Islamabad from 1—3, January, 1994 the two sides reiterated the need to engage in a bilateral dialogue. Government expressed its readiness to draw a schedule for further talks. Pakistan, however, was unwilling to commit itself to any time-frame for further talks and attempted to link the scheduling of future talks with the ground situation in J&K including level of security forces deployed against terrorists in J&K and discussion on the modalities of a plebiscite, which Government have consistently regarded as unacceptable.